Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GEORGE 02131 061930Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 L-03 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /048 W
----------117965 062309Z /66
R 061755Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5259
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFDICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2131

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, GY
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA PROPOSES TO REACTIVATE SECURITY ACT

1. PARLIAMENT PASSED THREE BILLS TIGHTENING SECURITY ON SEPTEMBER 1.ONE OF THE NEW LAWS REACTIVATES A SECTION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT WHICH EXPIRED IN 1972 PERTAINING TO PREVENTATIVE DETENTION. UNDER THIS LAW THE HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER MAY DETAIN A PERSON FOR UP TO 90 DAYS IF THAT PERSON IS DEEMED A THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY. A SECOND LAW EMPOWERS THE GOVERNMENT TO ORDER A CURFEW IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS JUDGED TO BE A DANGER TO PUBLIC SAFETY. THE THIRD LAW REVAMPS A CURRENT LEGAL PRACTICE OF ALLOWING PERSONS CONVINCTED OF A CRIME TO BE SET FREE PENDING RETRIAL IF THEY APPEAL THE DECISION. IN THE PAST MANY PERSONS CONVICTED OF "CHOKE AND ROB" CRIMES WOULD APPEAL THEIR SENTENCES AND BE SET FREE PENDING RETRIAL WHICH WOULD TAKE MONTHS. IN THE MEANTIME, THEY COULD BE ARRESTED FOR NEW CRIMES, CONVICTED, FILE AN APPEAL AND BE RELEASED SEVERAL TIMES. FINALLY, THEY WITHDRAW THEIR REQUESTS FOR APPEALS AND SERVE ALL THEIR SENTENCES CONCURRENTLY. THE NEW LAW WOULD REQUIRE THAT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GEORGE 02131 061930Z

BAIL BE POSTED FOR THEM TO BE FREED PENDING APPEAL.

2. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ADMIT IN PRIVATE THAT THE 90 DAY DETENTION PROVISION IS AIMED AT PERSONS WHO COMMIT SABOTAGE IN THE SUGAR MILLS OR CANE FIELDS AND THOSE WHO HARRASS SUGAR WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO CHOOSE TO WORK DESPITE THE SUGAR STRIKE. OBVIOUSLY THE GOVERN-

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

MENT IS PREPARING FOR A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION. UNFOR-
TUNATELY, THE 90 DAY DETENTION LAW COULD LEND ITSELF TO
MISUSE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT
WILL EXERCISE RESTRAINT.
BLACKEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE02131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770322-0935
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770996/aaaadcwc.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5c23784d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1381411
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA PROPOSES TO REACTIVATE SECURITY ACT
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PINS, GY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c23784d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009